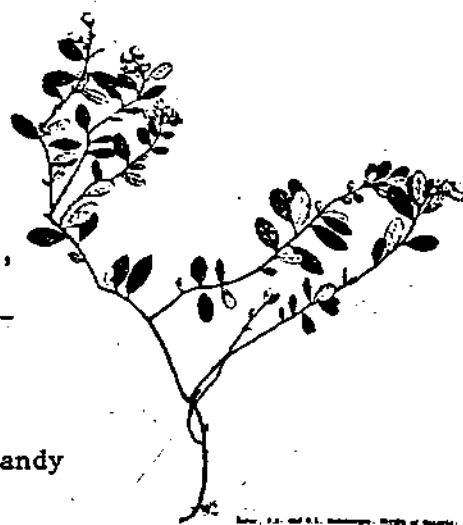


MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

Mountain Cranberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea L. ssp. minus (Lodd.) Hult.)

Description

Mountain Cranberry is an evergreen dwarf shrub with erect slender branching stems, 15 cm. high. The branchlets are greenish-brown to reddish, nearly smooth or with short curly white hairs. The leaves are alternate, oval-shaped with a rounded tip, a dark green color, and measure 2 cm. long. They are pale and black-dotted underneath. The flower is bell-shaped, 4-5 lobed, and a white or pinkish color. Their fruit is an edible dark red berry, 8-10 mm. long. The flowering season is June-July.



Habitat

This species favors dry, peaty acid soil, in rocky or sandy clearings at high elevations.

Range

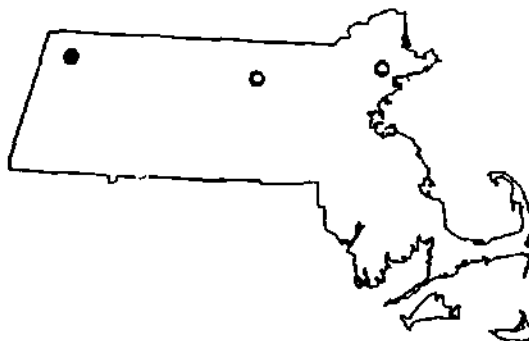
Mountain Cranberry is distributed from Greenland to British Columbia, south to the Great Lakes region, and the high mountains of northern New England.

Population Status

Mountain Cranberry is currently listed as an endangered species in the state of Massachusetts. Only one occurrence of this species has been vouchered recently, on Mt. Greylock in 1982; historically, two occurrences were reported, but are still unverified. The primary cause of rarity in Massachusetts is the very limited amount of habitat in the state. As with many alpine or subalpine plants, Mountain Cranberry is quite susceptible to trampling on mountain summits, but at present this is not a problem in Massachusetts.



Distribution of Mountain Cranberry



● Verified since 1978
 ○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town